

America again today. But today, the world looks with eyes averted, because the images that today define America in no way resemble America.

HONORING MONSIGNOR JOHN O'DONNELL ON HIS GOLDEN JUBILEE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monsignor John O'Donnell of Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Monsignor O'Donnell is celebrating his Golden Jubilee this year, which marks his 50th year in the priesthood.

Born in Philadelphia in 1928, Monsignor O'Donnell was ordained on May 27, 1954. He is a man who is known for his faith, service, and dedication to his neighbors. It seems that everyone at Immaculate Conception has a story about how Monsignor O'Donnell has touched their lives.

Immaculate Conception is the most diverse Catholic church in Fort Smith. It is the perfect fit for Monsignor O'Donnell, who constantly highlights and celebrates the diversity of the parish.

Mr. Speaker, Monsignor O'Donnell has influenced the lives of countless Arkansans. I thank Monsignor O'Donnell for his 50 years of service and being an inspiration to all of us.

WORKING TOGETHER ON TOP PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning we can refer to two pictures on the front of the Washington Post that show: the perplexity of General Taguba who tried to tell the truth, and the collapse of young Nick Berg's father when he heard of the tragedy that occurred. All of this falls at the feet of our administration, regardless of one taking a trip or not.

We need a full investigation which will include the Committee on the Judiciary, and we need it now. The American people and their values are owed this responsibility.

Let me change for a moment, Mr. Speaker, and talk about H.R. 4107, involving our firefighters, and say that this is a good first start, this bill, but we must make sure that the fire grant stays at the U.S. Fire Administration, and we must also recognize that firefighters have the rights of meeting and conferring and collective bargaining, and that should not diminish their service to the community. We welcome the volunteer fire agencies, but we also recognize that fire departments should control the work and the hours of their fire personnel so that all might be safe.

Let us work together to make H.R. 4107 a better bill, and let us have inves-

tigations so that the American people can have the answers on Iraq.

IN HONOR OF DAN PARKER

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, a constituent of mine, Mr. Daniel Parker, was struck down during his service in Iraq.

Mr. Parker, a dedicated Halliburton employee and retired teacher at a Border Patrol Academy in Charleston, was en route to Baghdad International Airport in a military convoy when an improvised explosive detonated near his vehicle.

Dan, a veteran of two tours in Vietnam, selflessly braved the perilous environment of a war zone and helped establish a peaceful and productive democracy in the Middle East. Civilian workers like Dan are the unsung heroes in pursuit of stability in Iraq.

With the deaths this past week of Dan and other civilians, we have been tragically exposed to the deadly hazards that these courageous American employees encounter during their daily work abroad.

Working alongside coalition troops and the Iraqi people, civilian contractors work tirelessly to improve the quality of life of strangers by helping to provide the simple resources that we in America most often take for granted: electric power, clean water, and public schools.

Dan Parker was an innocent victim of the treacherous conditions that Americans continue to endure in Iraq. His sacrifice and the sacrifice of others like him will not soon be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with Dan and his family.

FAILURE OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that in 5 minutes, the House Committee on International Relations is going to have a hearing about the post-Iraq situation. Since there are only 48 days left until the transfer of power, it is about time. Sadly, it is about 2 years late. It is an example of the sorry declining of congressional oversight and leadership of what was supposed to be a co-equal branch of government. The abuse of Iraqis never convicted of anything is just the latest example of that failure.

While some would claim that asking hard questions is an example of lack of support for our troops, the real lack of support for our troops is not giving them adequate water, and food, proper equipment, to say nothing of the relief of adequate support for troops on the ground and relief to rotate them home.

To the shame of this congressional leadership, we have failed to do our job as congressional watchdogs and policymakers. It has created problems for our troops in Iraq, it has created problems for the Iraqi people, and for the American public.

SINS OF A FEW MUST NOT TARNISH GOOD WORK OF MANY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for two reasons. One, of course, is to acknowledge the misconduct of a few American soldiers in the Iraqi prison, conduct we all abhor. Unfortunately, war is an ugly thing, and there will always be egregious behavior under the expediency of war.

But, Mr. Speaker, my other purpose is to implore that we do not forget the nobility and heroism with which our soldiers serve this country. Millions and millions of Iraqis have been liberated from a murdering, raping dictator, thanks to American soldiers. We cannot let the sins of a few tarnish the good work of the many.

Despite the current negative attention, we will not lose faith in the rightness of our purpose or the ability of our troops to be victorious.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS 5 MEANINGFUL INITIATIVES FOR AMERICA

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, working families continue to suffer under the oppressive policies of the Republican-controlled White House and Congress. With a new low in cynicism, Republicans have made a mockery of the suffering of the jobless.

The Republican unit of dirty tricks, deceitful slogans, and tricky titles has launched a new HOW initiative; Hire Our Workers, they call it. But Republicans refuse to support any of the actions that will relieve the suffering of working families.

Instead of bombarding the Nation with new rope-a-dope slogans, Republicans should just do the right thing and support five basic actions: extend Federal unemployment benefits; end the current tax incentives for shipping jobs overseas; raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to at least \$7 an hour; enact a robust highway bill to create 1.8 million good-paying jobs; and invest more resources in key education and job training programs.

Stop swindling the poor with words. Pass these five initiatives without further delay.

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1